(b) if so, what remedial action and -fresh initiatives are likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) by when BHEL will be in a position to stop foreign collabora tions at least for the products which it has been manufacturing for quite some time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) (a) R & D effort in BHEL has resulted in successful commercial development of a number of products/systems. BHEL is not going in for repeated collaborations for the same product acquisition of latest technology in certain cases is required to match the technology levels of its competitors within and outside the country as also to meet the market •preferences.

(b) and (c) BHEL has set uP an Engineering Committee and Technology Policy Committee which regularly review the R&D and engineering capabilities of the organisation and lay down policy guidelines for continuous improvement.

Letters of intent sought from Madhya Pradesh

86. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) how many "Letters of Intent" were sought during the last three years year-wise, from the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) how many of them were in the public, private and joint sectors; and

(c) how many of these have been granted so far, sectorwise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM); (a) to (c) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Criteria for declaring: No Industry Districts'

87. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what are the criteria for declaring a district as a 'No Industry District';

(b) what are the names of the 'No Industry Districts' in the country at present;

(c) whether Government propose to have a policy of having 'No Industry Talukas'; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Districts having no large or medium scale industries, as per District Industries Centre's ' Action Plans 1979-80, have been declared as 'No Industry Districts'. Names of 'No Industry Districts' are given in the Booklet on "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas" (corrected upto 20th October, 1986) copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Government have undertaken a detailed review of **the** Central Incentive Schemes for industrialisation of backward areas.

pending cases in Courts

88. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending in the Supreme Court and different

High Courts till date, High Courts-wise;

(b) for what reasons are those cases pending;

(c) whether it is a fact that vacancies in the post of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts constitute one of the major reasons for the pendency of the cases; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) As per information furnished by the Registries of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the pendency position has been indicated in the State-ment-I, attached herewith. (See below)

(b) The pendency is due to several complex factors and this question is engaging the attention of the Government.

(c) The pendency is not solely contributable to the existence of va cancies of judges in Supreme Courts and High Courts.

(d) Steps taken by the Government from time *to time to* ease this problem have been, indicated in the Statement. II attached herewith.

Statement 1

Position of pending cases

Supreme Court :		
Regular hearing matters	37467	
Admission and Misc. matters	122359	
TOTAL	159826	As on 1-7 1987
High Courts:		
1. Andhra Pradesh	92352	As on 31.12.1 987
2. Bombay	125298	
3. Calcutta	156447	
4. Delhi	76266	
5. Gujarat	49100	
6. Orissa	35398	
7. Punjab & Haryana	51366	
8. Sikkim	33	
9. Allahabad	288060	As on 30.6.1986
10. Himachal Pradesh	1168 9	
11. Jammu & Kashmir	339 52	
12. Karnataka	91291	
13. Kerala	120890	
14. Madhya Pradesh	52329	
15. Madras	173319	
16. Gauhati	16285	As on 31-12-1985
17. Patna	56904	
18. Rajasthan	48921	

Statement-11

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts; —

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal *{vide* Section 100—A) .

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 440 as on 1st Februairy, 1987.

51 Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:—

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

(b) Mattors fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Dispensing with printing of records;

(d.) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and the High Courts, these have been sent to them alongwith the view: of the Union Government, and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

(a) the need for decentralisa tion of the system of administra tion of justice by;

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the insitution of Nayaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;

(hi) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forms envisaged in items (a) (i) and **(a) CM),**

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts and sub ordinate judiciary.

(e) the training of Judicial Officers.

(f) the role of the legal pro fession in strengthening the sys tem of administration of justice.

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a reivew of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings.

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Electoral reforms

89. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Queustion 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the question of bringing about electoral reforms has been considered by Government and whether Gpvernment have arrived at any conclusions so far; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and if not, by when Government propose to bring about the much needed electoral reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R, BHARDWAJ):

(a) and (b) The proposals for elec toral reforms are proposed to be dis-cused first with the political parties before arriving at a final decision. These discussions have not yet taken place. It is not feasible, at this stage, to indicate the time by which such discussions with the political parties would be undertaken and completed.

Decision taken on electoral reforms

90. SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have since formulated its stance with regard to the proposals for electoral reforms made by the Election Commis sion; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposals for electoral reforms are proposed to be considered first in consultation with the political parties and a decision taken only thereafter. Such a consultation is yet to take place.

Audit of the accounts of political parties

91. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 161 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recommended to Government some more electoral reforms,